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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4282
INFO RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0124
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T PARIS 001707

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PM, S/I, NEA AND EUR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 9/09/2023
TAGS: [FR](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: IRAQ COALITION DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 96122

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Kathleen H. Allegrone, reas
ons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(S) Poloffs delivered reftel demarche on an informational basis to Franck Gellet, MFA DAS-equivalent for Iran and Iraq, Ambassador Xavier Rose, Inter-ministerial Coordinator for Iraq Reconstruction, and Arnaud Pescheux, Iran/Iraq desk officer, on September 11. Although France is not a Coalition Partner, Gellet saw no problem in NATO pursuing a bilateral agreement with the Government of Iraq regarding the legal status of NATO Training Mission - Iraq beyond December 2008. Gellet noted that the general thrust of France's Iraq policy is not to embarrass or otherwise cause problems for the USG in Iraq. To the contrary, the French wish to support U.S. efforts to transfer full security control to Iraqi forces, and we assess that France will view any SOFA-related issues through that prism.

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